catharsis

By Ahmki

From both Paris's and your report,
--during Anna Burne's defaeco. another entity was discovered as you fought her fears.
Now, it's completely normal that stray Timorem wander in from time to time. But, it wasn't a stray considering that it came from you.

IT WAS THAT GIRL.
WHEN YOU ACTIVATED THOSE RUNES, IT SERVED AS A FILTER TO KEEP TIMOREM OUT. AND PROTECT

YOU.
I SAW IT SEPARATE FROM YOU WHEN YOU PASSED THE RUNE BARRIER WHEN YOU WERE GETTING YOUR ASS BEAT BY ANNA'S TIMOREM.
SPLIT!

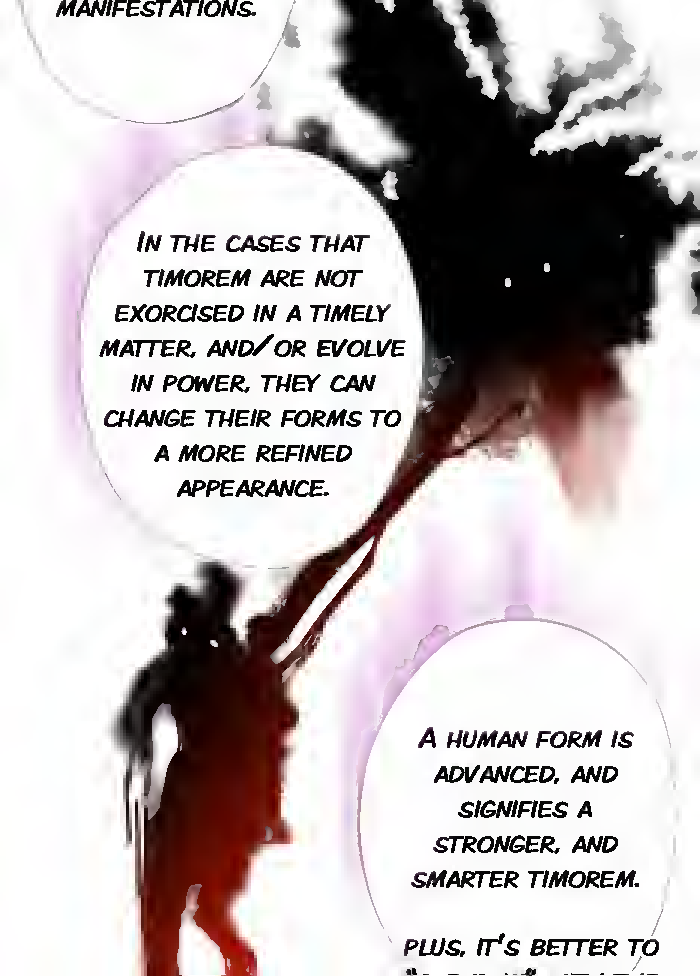
AND WHEN YOU CROSSED BACK TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE BARRIER, IT DISAPPEARED--
--ASSUMING THAT IT "RETURNED" TO YOU.

....
..IT TOOK ON A HUMAN FIGURE, HUH?

TALK ABOUT ESCALATING QUICKLY...
??

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TIMOREM ARE AN EMBODIMENT OF FEAR AND REPRESENT THE UGLY IN OUR LIVES.
SO, THEY USUALLY TAKE ON DEFORMED APPEARANCES IN THE EARLY STAGES AS RAW, FEAR


MANIFESTATIONS.
IN THE CASES THAT TIMOREM ARE NOT EXORCISED IN A TIMELY MATTER, AND/OR EVOLVE IN POWER, THEY CAN CHANGE THEIR FORMS TO A MORE REFINED APPEARANCE.
A HUMAN FORM IS ADVANCED, AND SIGNIFIES A STRONGER, AND SMARTER TIMOREM.
PLUS, IT'S BETTER TO

PUBLIC. AFTER THEY CONSUME THEIR HOST'S BODY.
BY THEN, THE TIMOREM TAKE ON PHYSICAL FORM TO ROAM FREELY BEYOND THE VEIL THAT THEY PREVIOUSLY COULD ONLY EXIST IN.

...I THINK I REMEMBER IRIS MENTIONING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOUR PROGRESS IN TRAINING LOOKED JUST FINE, AND BLAMING THE VEIL ENCOUNTERS SEEM TOO SHALLOW TO PUT THE BLAME ON. (ALTHOUGH IT MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN SOME WAY.)

SO, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS SKELETONS THAT HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN THE CLOSET FOR IT TO TAKE ON THAT FORM.

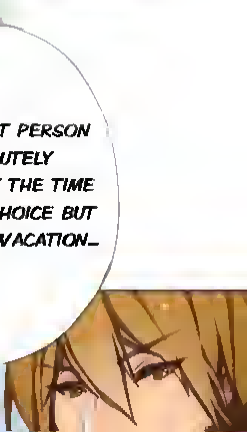
BUT IN THE END, THOSE CASES USUALLY BRING OUT THE MOST BADASS FORTITUDES.

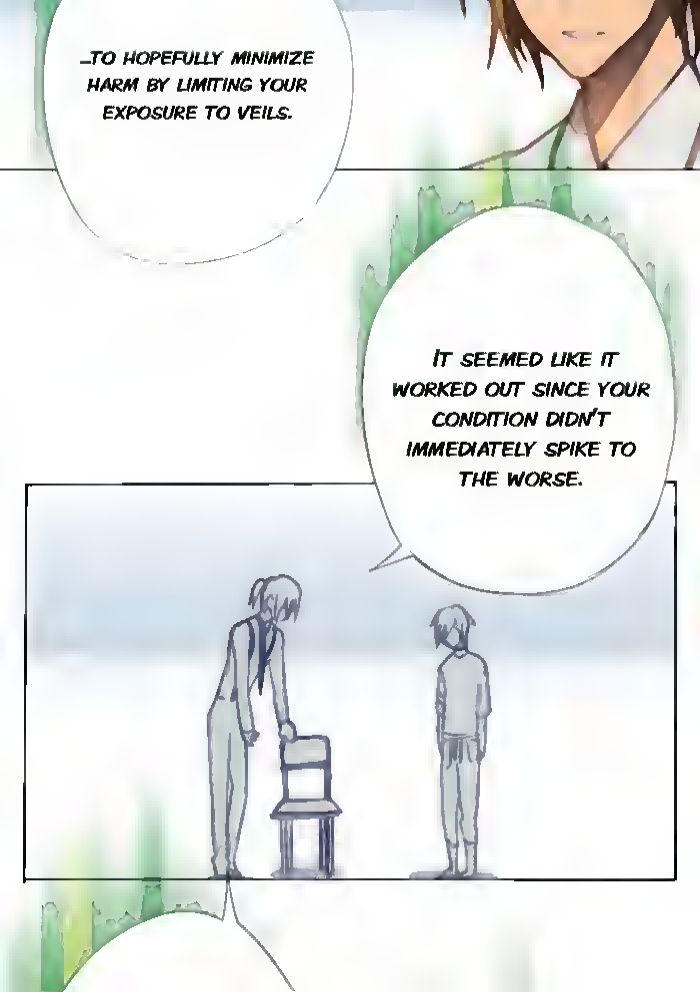
I WANTED TO ASSIST

YOU IMMEDIATELY AFTER HEARING THE REPORTS, BUT THAT WOULD BE RISKING YOUR LIFE BY NOT PREPARING PROPERLY.

I SOUGHT HELP FROM SOMEONE WHO ASSISTED US IN THE PAST WITH A FORMER COLLEAGUE WHO DISPLAYED SOMETHING SIMILAR.

HOWEVER, THAT PERSON WAS ABSOLUTELY UNAVAILABLE AT THE TIME AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PUT YOU ON VACATION...



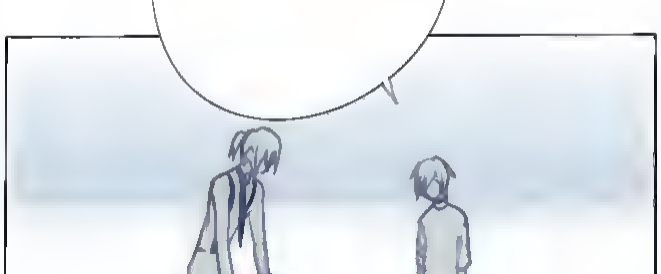

...TO HOPEFULLY MINIMIZE HARM BY LIMITING YOUR EXPOSURE TO VEILS.
IT SEEMED LIKE IT WORKED OUT SINCE YOUR CONDITION DIDN'T IMMEDIATELY SPIKE TO THE WORSE.

INSTEAD, IT PROGRESSED GRADUALLY.

PARIS HAS BEEN ON WATCH, KEEPING YOU PROTECTED WITH HIS POWER AS WE DREW OUT THE DAYS.

SO WHY COULDN'T YOU

HAVE TOLD ME THIS IN THE BEGINNING?

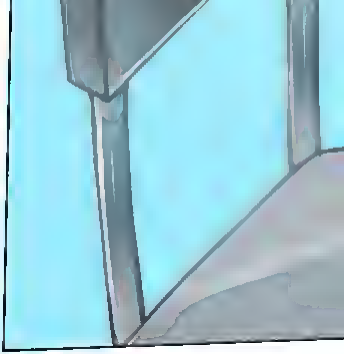


BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE PUT YOUR LIFE AT RISK BY KNOWING. THE ONLY REASON I CAN DISCLOSE THIS TO YOU

NOW IS BECAUSE YOU'RE PROTECTED TO SOME DEGREE AT HQ.

...

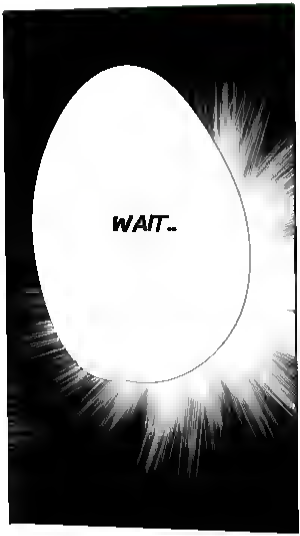
...OKAY.
SO THEN, WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE YOU WERE ASKING FOR HELP?

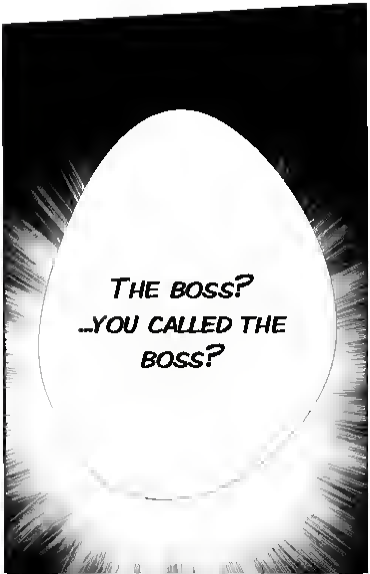


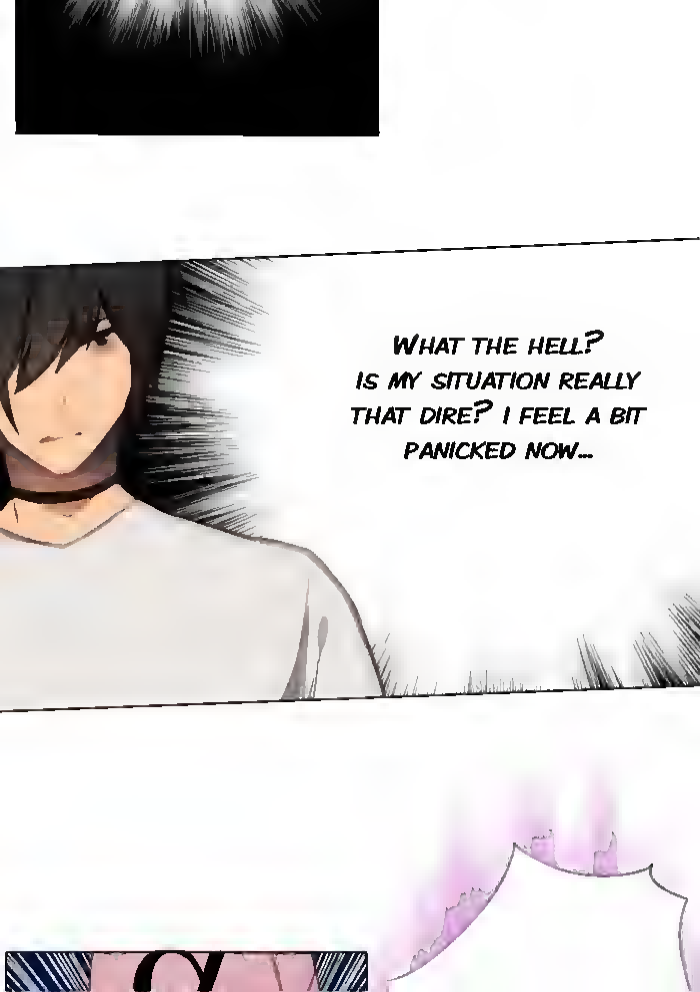
WELL...
ABOUT THAT...
I CALLED HELP FROM
THE HEAD OF
CATHARSIS.

BEING BUSY AS USUAL,
OUR BOSS ACTUALLY

JUST RETURNED FROM ATTENDING URGENT BUSINESS, AND IS CURRENTLY IN NO CONDITION TO HELP. WHICH IS WHY--






WHAT THE HELL?
IS MY SITUATION REALLY
THAT DIRE? I FEEL A BIT
PANICKED NOW...

--WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE!

AHEM

I WAS LITERALLY ASKED BY BIG BOSS IN PERSON!

SO. JUST KNOW--

WHATEVER IT IS HARVEY NEEDS HELP WITH, WE'LL SUCCEED BECAUSE I'M GIVING MY 110%.

(FOR BOSS)